



UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND STUDENT UNION
MINUTES- TENTH MEETING
STUDENT COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 23, 2014

The tenth meeting of the Student Council of the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union was held February 23, 2014. Minutes for the meeting were taken by Emiley MacKinnon, Deputy Chair. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Dunja Stajic, Chair of Council.

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| PRESENT: | Kate Rundle Michelle MacDougald Laura Wisener Emilie Sullivan Dana Kenney Emily Roberts Alix Barry Lucas MacArthur Matthew Rice Amanda Johnston Shirley Muhato | Joel Hansen Paula Campbell Anastasia Smallwood |
| ABSENT: | Bob Deziel Derrick Biso Nathan Lawless Brady Sheehy Emily Colwell Melanie Caird | Jessica Hawkings Travis Gordon |
| ALSO PRESENT: | Dunja Stajic Emiley MacKinnon Matthew MacInnis | Sara Reeves |

1-1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm

2-1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Smallwood/Wisener; to add executive evaluations to the agenda

Motion: Carried

3-1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for February 9th and 14th were approved

Section 7 February 9th spelling error

4-1 REPORTS

4-2 PRESIDENT

It's been a challenging couple of weeks since we last met as a council. I have been sick the last few weeks so have not been attending as many meetings, instead focusing on keeping things up in the office. I trust you all had a good break, or at the very least enjoyed your Islander Day and Snow Days. I was in New Brunswick for reading week visiting family and certainly enjoyed the break from classes and the time to get some work done.

Meetings

I met with Jackie Podger, VP Admin & Finance for UPEI to discuss our Handbooks. The handbooks that we had out to students are very popular and partially subsidized by the university. She informed me that the university will not be paying for the 2013-14 handbooks, something which was not expected. In a meeting with Jackie last year I was informed that she would not be paying for the 2014-15 handbooks, but this recent information was a surprise. Budget committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss this.

I met with Treena Smith, Manager of Student Affairs on the Friday prior to break as part of our regular meeting schedule. The meeting this week was mostly around the recent resignation of our VP Communications, but we also discussed an upcoming workshop called The Learning Partnership aimed at having students participate in the discussion of transition for high school to university, and equally as such out of university and into the workforce. I will be asking for councillors to attend this as well. It is this Wednesday from 9:30-1:30 and lunch is provided. Also in my meeting we discussed teamwork and the feeling of team within the executive. It's become apparent to me in the past weeks, and to some councillors as seen in the executive evaluations that there is a lack of teamwork amongst the executive. In the coming week the executive will be doing some teamwork building with the help of the staff at Student Affairs.

On Wednesday, February 19th I was supposed to attend a meeting of the VP Academic Search committee, to which I planned to call in as I was away in New Brunswick. Quite unfortunately the meeting was cancelled due to weather and despite attempting to reschedule for that afternoon it was postponed until March 6th.

I called into the Senate Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was surprisingly efficient and only lasted a half-hour. We discussed the upcoming Senate agenda for March 7th, and from what I can see it will be non-controversial.

I sit on the UPEI Convocation Committee along with an AVC student, who has yet to be decided. The second meeting of the committee was due to be Wednesday, this week and I was planning to call in, yet sadly the meeting was also rescheduled. The next meeting is scheduled for the last week of March.

Travis and myself were also notified of a change in the usage of gowns for Convocation. Until this year UPEI has had and maintained their own set of Convocation gowns and hoods, which students would pick-up the day before convocation. This year there has been a change and UPEI will be employing a company to provide the gowns and hoods for convocation. We have been told that this is in-line with other universities in the region, and it will save UPEI money in maintenance of the gowns. There will be a small cost of \$16 + tax for graduating UPEI students which will be paid at the time of ordering their gown online. More information, and promotion will be upcoming on this as well.

The UPEI Alumni Board of Directors meeting scheduled for this week was also cancelled, and yet to be rescheduled.

Office Related

A large focus the past two weeks has been the resignation of Kelsey Marr. I spent the majority of Tuesday, February 10th preparing the notices for the website, and the letter councillors received. Also within that week I was keeping Matt MacInnis and Melissa Morrow, our General Manager up-to-date as they were away at a Campus Trust conference. Following the nomination of Sara Reeves as Interim VP Comm I've been assisting her as needed and answering questions from UPEI faculty and staff as needed.

I spent a fair amount of time over the break ensuring our By-Laws are as up-to-date as they can be before we have them advertised and then re-approved. I also went through our policy document for formatting and changes, which should have been reflected prior to May 1st last year, but were not.

I've been working closely with Jessie, our CRO the past few days to ensure that everything is going well, and highly advertised. Nominations open tomorrow morning at 8:30am, and close March 5th. Voting is March 18th & 19th. Some events which will be held this year include a Candidates Introduction on March 9th, Candidate Karaoke, Debates and Trivia. The Elections Ad-Hoc committee has decided that having polling booths is something we should try this year. Having been done in the past, our hope is that it will increase voter turn-out. I will be asking councillors not running in the election to sign-up for times either in the Library or Student Centre on March 18th & 9th. There is a lot of advertising still to be done for the election and the hope is that we can increase voter turn-out by 5% over last years amount. I also prepared the possible referendum questions, which we will be discussing later on.

A major goal of mine this Reading Week was to begin preparation for the Executive Transition 2014, which will take place April 27th to May 3rd. This week is where the outgoing executive get to share their knowledge and advice and the incoming executive learn about the organization, campus and their positions. I felt that an early start on planning this week is important to allow for time to plan meetings, and to have the best transition week possible. So far the week will see a structure of three group days and two individual days.

This week I asked the Executive to create 2.5 month plans for themselves. With only two and a half months left in our position I felt it important that myself and the rest of the executive committee be prepared and aware of our goals during this busy time. Sources used to create these plans included the Council Retreat Brainstorming Session, The Strategic Plan and an executive goals sheet we've been working on. The executive will be meeting tomorrow morning to discuss these.

Travel

I will be away on several occasions in the upcoming weeks, but will not be missing any council meetings. This coming Thursday I will be heading to Toronto to attend Unleash the Noise, a conference aimed at tackling the stigma and suggesting improvements to youth mental health initiatives in Canada. Myself and UPEI Student Shelby Russell will be in attendance along with students from the high school and post-secondary level from across Canada.

Directly from Toronto I will be heading to Ottawa to assist with the establishment of UPEI's first Ottawa Alumni Chapter. While in Ottawa I will be emceeding two events and possibly attending some recruiting meetings with the UPEI recruiters.

March 12th I will be heading to British Columbia for an interview to one of the grad schools to which I've applied. This will result in my being a few hours late to the beginning of the CASA AGM on March 14th, but I have no doubt Travis can manage until I arrive shortly after lunchtime.

My office hours this week are as follows:

Monday 11:30-1:30

Tuesday 1:30-2:30

Thursday 8:30-10:00

4-3 VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL

Good evening Council,

As I write this, I am sitting at gate 23 of the Halifax airport waiting to board a flight for Ottawa where this weekend the Board of Directors of CASA is meeting to refocus our efforts for the end of the year and prepare for the Annual General Meeting in mid-March.

The past two weeks have been very CASA focused, what with the drop of the federal budget and the quickly approaching AGM. Of note, the federal budget moved to exempt vehicles as assets within the Canada Student Loan Program. This will cost approximately \$8M per year, and will bring other provinces in line with current practice in Alberta and Prince Edward Island. This has been an advocacy project for CASA for many years, and it is great to see our efforts pay off. The budget also contained a number of other measures for PSE, which I am happy to explain if any questions arise.

I am confident that by AGM, CASA will have a policy on youth unemployment. I have been busily working on this, and I am thankful to my colleagues Sean Glydon (ULSU), Ken Taylor (SAITSA) and Viviane (CASA Home Office) for their work on the project.

I have been busy preparing for the CASA Wall of Debt campaign, which will take place February 24-28th (this week). The campaign will focus on students building a wall of their debt in the Student Centre. We are still pulling together details, but our portion of the campaign will be very social media heavy. Join the campaign at wallofdebt.ca - I encourage and implore all Councillors to do so. This campaign also ties in well with our provincial advocacy efforts or a needs-based grant. We will also be using this campaign to show off the data we collected from the Student Debt surveys a few weeks back. Stay tuned!

I attended Sean Casey's town hall on the federal budget this past Monday evening, where I spoke about the federal budget's impact on youth.

Attendance was good and this was a great opportunity to interact with both federal MPs and the community generally.

These two weeks were fairly low-key for campus happenings, but my work continues on a number of fronts, including at APCC.

Unfortunately, during Council I will be in the air on my way back to the Island, but any questions can be forwarded to me at vpax@upeisu.ca

Thanks!

4-4 VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE

Hey council,

The last two weeks have been pretty busy for me, both in terms of work and school. As you all know I travelled to Toronto the Monday after our last council meeting to attend Campus Trust meetings. On that Tuesday we heard presentations from three potential trust administrators, one of those being our current administrator, The PBAS Group. After a long day of presentations, we had a group discussion around the strengths and weaknesses of the groups, followed by a vote to choose an administrator. Each school was allowed one vote, and the majority voted in favour of keeping our current administrators. The next day in our AGM the Board of Trustees approved these results.

With the RFP process now complete, we have moved into negotiation stages so that we can come up with a formal contract with the PBAS Group. I have volunteered to be a member of the negotiating committee as I also sat on the RFP committee and have that prior knowledge to contribute. The negotiation deadline has been set so that it is completed before the APO in June, so now my hopes are that the process can be completed somewhat quickly before my term expires.

Other matters addressed at our AGM included approving the annual budget, reviewing the financial statements for the Trust as a whole, reviewing the Trust's investment portfolio and performance, and appointing our advisors for the year (auditor, legal counsel, investment manager). Melissa was also appointed as Chair of the Campus Trust Board for another year, or at least until her term as a trustee expires.

In terms of office work I have just been trying to keep up with all of my regular work and budget work. I will also be out of the office this week to attend a case competition in Edmonton through school. So if anyone needs to get a hold of me just send me off an email and I'll try to get back to you as soon as I can.

Thank you

4-5 VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Hello Council,

As I bet you can imagine this past week has been a whirlwind. Coming into a position this late in the game can be difficult, but starting right before the majority of people are away for a week was what made it a bit tough.

Between snowstorms I did manage to make it into the office a couple of times to start the learning process. So far I have mastered checking my e-mail and scheduling tweets, but I wont bore you with the minor details. I am very excited for this coming week when I will be able to get a full on feel for what I will be doing for the next two months.

I did manage to have a meeting with the Chair of the Communications Committee, Dana Kenny to get me up to speed on where the committee is at right now. I am looking forward to our first official meeting to come up this week.

I also spoke with Travis about upcoming advertisement of his Wall Of Debt campaign and Matt Rice with regards to beach blast.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who has any ideas they would like to pitch in regards to communication to certainly let me know. I look forward to what I can accomplish with you all. ☺

4-6 VICE PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES

Good Evening Council,

Sand is coming, swag is ordered, DJ is booked: Beach Blast 2014 is all ready to go. Registration for the volleyball tournament starts Monday up in the SU offices. If you're interested in putting in a team let me know. More importantly though, if you have a kind soul and would like to help move sand in on March 5th (Wednesday) PLEASE let me know. Even if you can only do it for a little while, that's fine, I just need as many people as possible to come help. I will resort to bribing you with food, as we do have some money set aside for volunteer appreciation. Also if anyone wants to volunteer with helping me put the packs together for the tournament, as well as keeping track of registrations during the actual tournament, I would be extremely grateful.

I've been working on what has been termed "president's council" for now. The idea is bringing the leaders of each society/sub-organization together in a way to promote their continued coordination with the Student Union and with each other. It is also a great opportunity for our sub-organizations to tell us what they require or would like from us going forward. This has been slow going as many of the groups I've already met with are hesitant to get involved in this large a project with such small amounts of time left in their terms. It is still beneficial to put a meeting together for this year, if only to make sure there is a solid framework put together for next year. I will be continuing work on this and will keep council updated.

With last week being the break, that's about all I have for you!

4-7 **ACCESSIBILITY REPRESENTATIVE**
Nothing to Report

4-8 **SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVE**
Society Updates

Biology Society

-Biology claimed its first victory against Physics in the Duffy Cup Sex Trivia Challenge, February 12th

-Ski trip to Wentworth, NS on Saturday Feb. 28th, time to be decided

Physics Society

-Nothing to report

Chemistry Society

-Nothing to report

Pre-vet Society

-Pet photo contest - deadline March 3rd

-Pubcrawl March 7th - contact Kate Beamish for more information

4-9 **BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE**
Nothing to Report

4-10 **ARTS REPRESENTATIVES**
Nothing to Report

4-11 **SENATE REPRESENTATIVE**
Nothing to Report

4-12 **NURSING REPRESENTATIVE**
Nothing to Report

4-13 GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing to Report

4-14 VET MED REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing to Report

4-15 FRIST YEAR REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing to Report

4-16 HEALTH AND WELNESS REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing to Report

4-17 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ski Trip

There have been two ski trips this semester for the international students. The first was on February 7th with the SU and the second on the 21st. There were about 30 students for each trip and the IRO funded the second trip.

International Students Potluck

The SIS is organizing a potluck for the end of the semester. Hopefully, we'll be able to cover the costs with the money brought in from the valentine's day event, the SU, and donations.

4-18 VP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Howdy All!

Our committee will be meeting with interim VP Com. Ms. Sara Reeves twice this coming week - on both Monday and Friday.

Over the break the committee's chair met with the new VP to bring her up to speed with regards to the committee's work.

In other news, posters advertising the election & hired positions have been posted by the committee.

dK

4-19 PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

Nothing to Report

4-20 VP ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE

Nothing to Report

5-1 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

Motion: Smallwood/Rundle; to approve Referendum Question Number 1 for the Spring General Election 2014

Motion: Carried

Motion: Smallwood/Kenny; to approve Referendum Question Number 2 for the Spring General Election 2014

Motion: Carried

Against: Smallwood

Abstain: MacArthur, MacDougald, Barry

Motion: Smallwood/Roberts; to approve Referendum Question Number 3 for the Spring General Election 2014

Motion: Carried

Abstain: Kenny

6-1 REVIEW OF BY-LAWS (POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT)

President Smallwood presented a number of changes to the By-Laws for review by councillors for approval in a future meeting.

Motion: Smallwood/MacDougald; to move the campaign spending limits to Policy Committee

Motion: Carried

Motion: Smallwood/MacArthur; to move the 10% referendum amount to Policy Committee

Motion: Carried

7-1 SCHOLARSHIP DISCUSSION

There is a possibility of the Student Union offering a Scholarship to the students of UPEI as many other departments around campus also offer scholarships. Councillors were encouraged to talk to their constituents regarding this issue and to take some time to think about it.

8-1 EXECUTIVE EVALUATIONS

Motion: Smallwood/ Wisener; to move into camera

Motion: Carried

Motion: Wisener/ Barry; to move out of camera

Motion: Carried

9-1 NEW BUSINESS

Motion: Rice/Hansen; to ratify the Rainbow Alliance

Motion: Carried

- The Cadre has a new website, feel free to check it out

- There will be a campaign polling station and we need volunteers who are not running in the election

-Event at Holland College this Wednesday (9:30-1:30) on Transitioning into and out of University, spots available.

10-1 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Wisener/Barry; to adjourn the meeting

Motion: Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm

Signatures

President's Signature

Chair of Council's Signature
